

PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC DEVICE WITH
METHOD OF PREVENTING READBACK

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It is sometimes desirable to protect a design used in a PLD from being copied. If the design is stored in a different device from the PLD and read into the PLD through a bitstream, the design may be encrypted as it is read into the PLD and decrypted within the PLD before being loaded into configuration memory cells for configuring the PLD. According to the invention, in such a device, a method is provided to prevent the design from being read back from the PLD in its decrypted state if it had been encrypted when loaded into the PLD.

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